coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling terrorism. It, *inter-alia,* includes strengthening the border management, gearing up intelligence machinery, and modernization and up-gradation of State police and security forces. The Central Government has taken diplomatic initiatives with various countries on counter terrorism. POTA, 2002 has been enacted under which 32 Organisations have been notified as terrorist organizations. As a result of concerted efforts of the Central Government and the State Governments, a number of Pak backed ISI modules have been busted in various parts of the country.

Central assistance to nab Veerappan

174. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have sought assistance from the Union Government to nab Veerappan;

(b) if so, the details of assistance rendered by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government as well as State Governments have failed to nab the Veerappan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans now formulated to nab Veerappan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the request of State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, one Task Force of NSG and 4 Companies of CRPF were provided to the State Government of Karnataka on 07.09.2002. In addition, assistance in the form of arms, ammunitions and equipments with technical intelligence support were also provided. Further, the services of Shri K. Arkesh, Commandant, CRRF were placed at the disposal of the STF Karnataka to facilitate operation against Veerappan and his gang.

(c) to (e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects and therefore maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have formulated strategies for nabbing Veerappan.